

## THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 1 June 2015

- Present: Professor Sir Nigel Thrift (Vice-Chancellor and President (Chair)), Professor R Ball (Chair of the Faculty of Science), Professor S Croft (Provost), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor T Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering and Medicine)), Professor J Palmowski (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education)), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences)), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (People and Public Engagement)), Professor P Winstanley (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor L Young (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resources)).
- Apologies: Professor A Coats (Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance)), Professor M Freely (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor M Taylor (Dean of the Warwick Business School), Ms C Turhan (President of the Students' Union).
- In Attendance: Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Ms J Horsburgh (Deputy Registrar (Secretary)), Dr E Hough (Assistant Registrar, Governance (Assistant Secretary)), Dr E Melia (Senior Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling), for item 298/14-15), Miss E Peak (Assistant Registrar, Governance (Assistant Secretary)), Ms Jessica Taylor (Architect (Estates Office), for item 298/14-15), Mrs R Wooldridge Smith (Deputy Academic Registrar).

#### 291/14-15 Minutes

##### RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2015 be approved.

#### 292/14-15 Guardian Ranks Warwick in UK top 10

##### REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (a) That The Guardian newspaper had ranked Warwick 6th overall in the top UK universities (up three places from 2014).
- (b) That 13 departments had been ranked in the top ten, with three of those being achieving first or second place.

##### RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to those departments ranked in the top ten.

#### 293/14-15 Warwick Researchers Secure £3.19m Boost to Tackle Superbugs

##### REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (a) That researchers at Warwick had been awarded £3.19m in funding to support a flagship project on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), it being noted that this would enable multi-partner collaborations to tackle the growing threat of superbugs.

- (b) That the funding had been awarded by a cross-council 'war cabinet' on AMR comprising the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), it being noted that this was one of the largest UK public grant investments in AMR research.
- (c) That University of Warwick researchers, Professor C Dowson, Dr D Roper and Dr A Lloyd (School of Life Sciences), and Professor M Turner (Department of Physics), would investigate a vital link in the chain of antimicrobial resistance – the bacterial cell wall.

294/14-15 Cheltenham Science Festival

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (a) That Warwick would be programming its own interactive space at the Cheltenham Science Festival, from 2-7 June 2015, noting that 120 Warwick researchers would be taking part in the event.
- (b) That members of the Committee were encouraged to attend the Festival for one of the days to support the University activity in this area.

295/14-15 Warwick Music Festival

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That the three-day Warwick Music Festival, held at Warwick Arts Centre from 21-23 May 2015 had been a great success.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to all those who contributed to the event.

296/14-15 Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Monash University

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That on 20 May 2015 Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Monash University, in recognition of his role in reinvigorating global manufacturing, and advising industry and international governments over the last 30 years.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to Professor Lord Bhattacharyya.

297/14-15 WMG Academy

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That the WMG Academy for Young Engineers Solihull had received planning permission from Solihull Council, regarding a proposed new Academy in Solihull noting that this would eventually host 640 young engineers aged 14-19, with the first intake joining in September 2016.

298/14-15 \*Recommendation for the Establishment of University Space Norms

CONSIDERED:

A paper presenting recommendations for the establishment of University space norms (SC.139/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the recommendation to reduce the space allowance norm for academic staff to 10-12m<sup>2</sup> in the construction of new buildings be approved, subject to the Guidelines being revised to state that 'Academic Staff will generally, ~~but not always,~~ be allocated a sole occupancy office'.
- (b) That the recommendation to work towards an allocation of desk space for PGR students on a ratio of 1.5 students per desk be approved.
- (c) That further consideration be given to norms for PGR students to take account of faculty-level differences in working pattern and needs, alongside that of the general provision of non-office space for PGR students.
- (d) That further consideration needed to be given to the wording of the research- and teaching-only staff guidelines.
- (e) That thanks be extended to the Senior Assistant Registrar, Space Management and Timetabling and the Architect, Warwick Estates Office, for the extensive analysis of this area.

298/14-15 \*Institutional Risk Register – Summer Term Update

CONSIDERED:

The 2014-15 summer term institutional risk register update (SC.140/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That risk 2 be elevated to take account of the impact of government policy and possible funding cuts, with commensurate wording likewise included in risk 5 (research income).
- (b) That the target date for risk 10 (NAIC) be amended to 2017, as the building would not be finished until then.
- (c) That the target date for risk 4 (pension contributions) be amended to December 2016 to reflect possible timescales on changes to the USS.
- (d) That threats to the MBChB arising from government policy on medical education be added to the detailed risk register for risk 17.
- (e) That subject to the above amendments, the recommendations set out in paper (SC.140/14-15 {restricted}) be approved.

299/14-15 \*Shared Parental Leave Policy

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Director of Human Resources, detailing proposed changes to the University's Shared Parental Leave Policy (SC.141/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the changes proposed in the paper (SC.141/14-15 {restricted}) be approved.
- (b) That HR colleagues be requested to further develop the technical policy into a set of guidelines that could be easily interpreted and applied by users.

300/14-15 Senate Business

CONSIDERED:

The items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 10 June 2015.

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Academic Registrar)

- (a) That the main strategic item for discussion at the meeting was a topic relating to gender, diversity and values.
- (b) That the joint report listed under Senate agenda item 7b did include input from the Board of the Faculty of Medicine.
- (c) That the research awards of identical amounts in paper S.52/14-15 referred to Marie Curie Awards.

(by the Deputy Registrar)

- (d) That the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 10 March 2015 incorrectly stated that Dr Michael Scott was from the Department of Physics, rather than Classics and Ancient History.
- (e) That the report from the Academic staff Committee (S.51/14-15) should include specific reference to the fact that those individuals with honorary associations were not employed by the University.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the minor amendments detailed above, the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 10 June 2015 be approved, as set out in the papers circulated for consideration by Senate Steering.

301/14-15 Sustainability Guide for Higher Education Institutions

CONSIDERED:

A publication from the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) which aimed to demonstrated the benefits of sustainability resilience for institutions (SC.142/14-15).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the perspective of the CUC on sustainability was an important one for the Council to consider.
- (b) That in conjunction with Goal 6 of the University's strategy, a broader consideration of what sustainability meant for the University *per se* was required and that the CSAG had the remit to consider this further.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resources))

- (c) That the University approach to carbon targets was also a topic of discussion at CSAG, noting that an integrated approach needed to be taken across the institution.

(by the Chair of the Faculty of Science)

- (d) That the University had a role to play in inspiring the next generation and it thus behoved it to aspire to exceed minimum targets.

(by the Vice Chancellor and President)

- (e) That the HEFCE had also recently published a paper on The Sustainability of Learning and Teaching in Higher Education in England, noting that this should be considered within the broader piece of work that needed to be undertaken around both the social and corporate aspects of sustainability.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education))

- (f) That the University would soon offer a degree in Global Sustainable Development that crossed three faculties and was embedded across the institution, providing a positive story for the University in this area.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be considered by the Capital, Space and Amenities Group, before subsequent and more detailed consideration of the wider topic of sustainability by the Steering Committee.
- (b) That the Guide be noted and recommended to the Council for consideration.

302/14-15 Capital, Space and Amenities Group Report

CONSIDERED:

A report from the meetings of the Capital, Space and Amenities Group held on 23 April and 11 May 2015 (SC.143/14-15).

RESOLVED:

That the report (SC.143/14-15) be noted and recommended for consideration by the University Estates Committee.

RECEIVED:

An update on research strategy and performance, the external research environment, and key internal developments pertinent to the support of research across the University (SC.144/14-15).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering and Medicine))

- (a) That research income was on target to reach £100M by the end of the year.
- (b) That there were one or two areas of concern and these would be raised at the next Research Committee.
- (c) That there were conflicting policies from RCUK and HEFCE around Open Access, noting the University aimed to be compliant by 2017 rather than 2016.
- (d) That the name of the consortium who had submitted a bid to the HEFCE Catalyst Fund was M6 and not M5 as stated in the paper.
- (e) That the title of the position for the M6 consortium would be Director, rather than Chief Operating Officer.

(by the Chair of the Faculty of Science)

- (f) That the improvements undertaken as part of the Simplify, Collaborate and Deliver programme to the way that research and research-related contracts were supported at the University had been very positively received.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education))

- (g) That in the past week both ERC and Marie Curie funding had been ring-fenced.

RESOLVED:

That the research update (SC.144/14-15) be noted.